5/20/83 S 8340-3 a

Washington State
Employment Security Department
John Spellman, Governor
Norward Brooks, Commissioner

prepared by the
Research & Analysis Branch
Olympia, WA 98504
(206) 753-5142

in cooperation with the
Bureau of Labor Statistics
and the Employment and
Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor

Washington Labor Market

Volume 7, Number 3 March 1983

HIGHLIGHTS

Mild weather accelerated normal seasonal patterns causing total employment in Washington State to rise 20,000 between January and February. Reflecting the increase in job opportunities, total unemployment dropped 7,100 from January to a February level of 264,800. The jobless rate fell from 13.6 to 13.2 percent over the month.

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment moved up 3,300 between January and February despite a loss of 800 in manufacturing. Manufacturing employment was lower mainly because of further layoffs in aerospace. Lumber employment rose, however, with demand expanding in response to recovery in the national homebuilding industry. In the nonmanufacturing industries, higher employment was noted in construction, public education, wholesale trade, and services.

	Feb. 1983*	Jan. 1983*	Feb. 1982
Civilian Labor Force	2,007,800	1,994,900	1,975,000
Employment	1,743,000	1,723,000	1,727,400
Unemployment	264,800	271,900	247,600
State Rate	13.2	13.6	12.5
National Civilian Rate	11.3	11.4	9.6

*These data are alternative estimates which are more nearly comparable with data released in previous years than are official Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates developed for Federal program purposes.

The statewide jobless rate of 13.2 percent this February compares with a rate of 12.5 percent in February 1982. Nonfarm wage and salary employment was down 5,900 over the year. Nonetheless, a number of industries are beginning to show year-to-year increases in employment. These industries include lumber, retail trade and services.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Most of the state's reduction in unemployment between January and February occurred outside of the Central Puget Sound area, especially in lumber producing and agricultural areas. Further layoffs in aerospace evidently prevented any significant improvement in the Seattle, Tacoma and Bremerton areas. In both the Seattle-Everett and the Tacoma metropolitan areas the jobless rate declined only one-tenth of a point in February, to 10.9 and 14.0 percent, respectively. Bremerton's unemployment rate remained unchanged over the month at 8.8 percent. While the aerospace jobs are located in the Seattle-Everett areas, many aerospace jobs are held by persons commuting from the Bremerton and Tacoma areas.

The expansion underway in the lumber industry resulted in significant reductions in counties where that industry is important. Typical of these areas, the unemployment rate in Clallam County fell from 21.3 percent in January to 18.5 percent in February. Grays Harbor's rate fell from 17.6 to 16.4 percent. The rate in Lewis County dropped from 19.2 to 17.9 percent, while the Pacific County rate fell from 21.7 to 18.1 percent.

Several agricultural areas were also credited with reductions in their jobless rates over the month with soil preparation, pruning, and other early activities beginning in February thanks to exceptionally mild weather. The unemployment rate in the Wenatchee area fell from 22.5 to 18.7 percent. Yakima's rate dropped from 21.0 to 19.8 percent, while the rate in Grant County was reduced from 18.2 to 17.3 percent.

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

Counter to the overall upward trend in employment, the number of workers on manufacturing payrolls fell 800 between January and February and in the latter month the number was down 14,200 over the year. Cutbacks in aerospace payrolls were largely responsible for both the over the month and the over the year losses. Aerospace employment was down 1,500 between January and February and down 9,600 between February 1982 and 1983. Unfortunately, further losses in aerospace are expected in 1983.

Adding to the January-February losses in manufacturing, employment in primary metals fell 300 with 100 of the drop in aluminum. Over the year, payrolls in primary metals have declined 2,800 with one-half of the loss in aluminum. The cutbacks reflect weak national markets and, in the case of

aluminum, higher electricity prices. The Bonneville Power Administration, however, has recently offered to sell surplus electricity to aluminum and other Northwest industries at a rate which is less than one-half of that normally charged to direct use industries. As a result of the offer, ALCOA reported that it will recall 70 workers at its Vancouver smelter and 130 workers at its Wenatchee plant.

Pulp and paper employment dropped 200 in February and was down 700 over the year. The industry should begin to benefit from increasing demand generated from an expanding national economy. A recent firming of pulp prices would seem to indicate some improvement in the industry is occurring.

Employment in lumber and wood products rose 800 in February because of recovery in the national homebuilding industry and exceptionally mild winter weather. Employment in the industry was up 2,200 over the year in February. Lumber payrolls should grow more than seasonally this spring and summer provided the national homebuilding industry remains healthy. Over one-half of all lumber and plywood produced is used in new housing units. National housing starts in February 1983 totaled 1,756,000, on a seasonally adjusted annual rate basis, compared with a rate of 945,000 in the depressed February 1982 period. The strong recovery in home building resulted from a substantial decline in interest rates, and a high level of housing starts in subsequent months is dependent on interest rates remaining at current levels or declining further.

NONMANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

In the nonmanufacturing industries, employment generally moved up between January and February. The major exception was in retail trade where employment fell 2,500. The loss here, though, was anticipated and resulted from the completion of January sales and inventory work at department and apparel stores. Slightly higher employment was reported for restaurants and building material stores. Wholesale trade also expanded in February with 1,200 additional workers. Most of the gain occurred in the fruit and vegetable wholesale category where employment is volatile.

Over the year, trade employment was up 2,000 with all of the gain on the retail level. Growth was concentrated at eating and drinking places and at food stores.

Services employment added 1,400 between January and February. Firms preparing income tax returns and those providing agricultural services reported their usual seasonal gains for this time of the year. Higher employment was also noted in personal services, amusements, private education, and membership organizations. Health service employment declined slightly in February, but it accounted for a major share of the 7,900 gain in service employment over the year.

Construction employment rose 300 in February to begin its seasonal expansion. Lower interest rates on home mortgages should permit substantial growth in home building employment this spring and summer. Gains from an increase in home building, however, may be partially offset by lower employment on nuclear power plants. Peak employment has passed on both plants currently under construction, and funding for the completion of WPPSS No. 3 at Satsop is questionable. Some workers on the Satsop project had their work week cut to four days in an effort to save money and stretch out the completion date. The plant was scheduled to begin producing power in 1985 or early 1986, but the power may not be needed until later. In addition, employment on WPPSS No. 1, which was mothballed last year, is expected to be cut from 600 to 150 this summer.

Public education employment rose 3,500 between January and February as staffing returned to near its December level following a drop in January. The loss in January and increase in February are normal seasonal developments related to the winter vacation period. Over the year, public education employment was little changed (up 500). Total civilian government payrolls (Federal, state, and local) rose 2,300 over the year, an increase of well under 1 percent.

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS IN WASHINGTON STATE, PLACE OF WORK 1/

(In Thousands)

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Feb. 1983 (Prel.)	Jan. 1983 (Rev.)	Feb. 1982	Jan. 1982	Change Jan. 83 to Feb. 83	Change Feb. 82 to Feb. 83
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE AND SALARY.....	1,548.5	1,545.2	1,554.4	1,550.8	+3.3	-5.9
TOTAL MANUFACTURING.....	276.5	277.3	290.7	291.9	-0.8	-14.2
Durable Goods.....	196.2	196.3	207.9	209.3	-0.1	-11.7
Lumber & Wood Products.....	39.6	38.8	37.4	37.3	+0.8	+2.2
Furniture & Fixtures.....	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.0	+0.1	0.0
Stone, Clay, & Glass Prod.....	5.4	5.4	5.7	5.7	0.0	-0.3
Primary Metal Industries.....	12.0	12.3	4/14.8	4/15.0	-0.3	-2.8
Aluminum Prod. & Processing...	7.8	7.9	9.2	9.3	-0.1	-1.4
Fabricated Metal Products.....	9.2	9.3	9.8	10.0	-0.1	-0.6
Machinery.....	26.2	26.3	28.3	28.4	-0.1	-2.1
Machinery exc. Electrical.....	15.8	15.8	17.5	17.5	0.0	-1.7
Electrical & Electronic Equip.	10.4	10.5	10.8	10.9	-0.1	-0.4
Transportation Equipment.....	86.9	88.4	97.2	98.1	-1.5	-10.3
Aerospace.....	69.0	70.5	78.6	79.8	-1.5	-9.6
Other Transp. Equipment.....	17.9	17.9	18.6	18.3	0.0	-0.7
Other Durable Goods 2/.....	12.9	12.9	11.7	11.8	0.0	+1.2
Nondurable Goods.....	81.3	81.0	82.8	82.6	+0.3	-1.5
Food & Kindred Products.....	28.1	28.0	29.4	28.9	+0.1	-1.3
Canned & Preserved Foods.....	9.0	9.0	9.4	9.1	0.0	-0.4
Apparel & Other Text. Prod.....	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.6	+0.1	+0.2
Paper & Allied Products.....	15.6	15.8	16.3	16.5	-0.2	-0.7
Printing & Publishing.....	15.7	15.7	15.8	15.8	0.0	-0.1
Chemicals & Allied Products....	9.7	9.6	9.3	9.2	+0.1	+0.4
Other Nondurable Goods 3/.....	6.6	6.4	6.6	6.6	+0.2	0.0
MINING & QUARRYING.....	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.0	+0.1	-0.1
CONSTRUCTION.....	69.0	68.7	72.7	73.0	+0.3	-3.7
TRANS. & PUBLIC UTILITIES.....	87.4	87.5	87.0	88.1	-0.1	+0.4
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE.....	377.8	379.1	375.8	381.3	-1.3	+2.0
Wholesale Trade.....	96.4	95.2	100.4	100.4	+1.2	-4.0
Retail Trade.....	281.4	283.9	275.4	280.9	-2.5	+6.0
FIN., INS., & REAL ESTATE.....	90.3	90.2	90.8	90.7	+0.1	-0.5
SERVICES.....	320.0	318.6	312.1	309.6	+1.4	+7.9
GOVERNMENT.....	324.6	321.0	322.3	319.2	+3.6	+2.3
Federal.....	66.0	66.3	64.8	65.4	-0.3	+1.2
State & Local.....	258.6	254.7	257.5	253.8	+3.9	+1.1
Education.....	140.7	137.2	140.2	136.3	+3.5	+0.5
(WORKERS IN LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTES).....	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.0	-0.5

1/ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during pay period including the 12th of the month.

2/ Includes instruments and related products and miscellaneous manufacturing activities.

3/ Includes textile mill products, rubber and miscellaneous plastics products, petroleum refining and related products, and leather products.

4/ Excludes workers involved in labor-management disputes.

Washington State
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

John Spellman, Governor
Howard J. Brooks, Commissioner

RESIDENT LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT
In Washington State and Labor Market Areas

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Date March 29, 1983

Benchmark 1982

	February 1983 Preliminary 3/				January 1983 Revised				February 1982 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,007,800	1,743,000	264,800	13.2	1,994,900	1,723,000	271,900	13.6	1,975,000	1,727,400	247,600	12.5
Bellingham SMSA	49,700	42,200	7,500	15.1	49,100	41,700	7,400	15.9	47,500	40,700	6,800	14.3
Bremerton SMSA	63,400	57,900	5,600	8.8	62,700	57,200	5,500	8.8	59,700	54,600	5,100	8.5
Olympia SMSA	56,200	48,900	7,300	13.0	55,600	48,100	7,500	13.5	54,700	47,700	7,000	12.8
Seattle-Everett SMSA	884,200	787,500	96,700	10.9	881,000	783,900	97,100	11.0	870,500	784,500	86,000	9.9
King County	694,200	622,300	71,900	10.4	690,500	619,400	71,100	10.3	681,300	616,800	64,500	9.5
Spokane SMSA	151,400	131,700	19,700	13.0	150,500	130,700	20,200	13.4	150,200	130,000	20,200	13.4
Tacoma SMSA	188,800	162,300	26,500	14.0	186,300	160,100	26,200	14.1	182,200	160,000	22,200	12.2
Tri-Cities Area 2/	78,100	66,000	12,100	15.5	76,900	64,400	12,500	16.3	81,700	71,100	10,600	13.0
Yakima SMSA	83,300	66,800	16,500	19.8	80,900	63,900	17,000	21.0	78,300	63,300	15,000	19.2
Wenatchee Labor Area 2/	36,020	29,270	6,750	18.7	36,600	28,380	8,220	22.5	36,210	29,760	6,450	17.8
Adams	6,900	5,920	980	14.2	6,450	5,470	980	15.2	6,630	5,780	850	12.8
Asotin	8,140	6,990	1,150	14.1	7,990	6,860	1,130	14.1	7,670	6,670	1,000	13.0
Chelan	19,250	15,680	3,570	18.5	19,560	15,390	4,170	21.3	19,530	15,450	4,080	20.9
Clark	93,730	82,610	11,120	11.9	94,390	82,450	11,940	12.6	95,830	82,930	12,900	13.5
Columbia	2,350	1,770	580	24.7	2,130	1,590	570	26.4	1,720	1,300	420	24.4
Cowlitz	33,270	27,610	6,060	18.0	33,320	27,070	6,250	18.8	33,120	27,520	5,600	16.9
Ferry	2,280	1,780	500	21.9	2,240	1,730	510	22.8	3,030	2,150	880	29.0
Garfield	1,060	940	120	11.3	990	880	110	11.1	990	920	70	7.1
Grant	23,060	19,070	3,990	17.3	21,780	17,820	3,960	18.2	21,350	17,870	3,480	16.3
Grays Harbor	32,010	26,760	5,250	16.4	32,530	26,810	5,720	17.6	33,340	27,760	5,580	16.7
Island	14,390	12,910	1,480	10.3	14,200	12,740	1,460	10.3	13,490	12,060	1,420	10.5
Jefferson	6,530	5,650	880	13.5	6,460	5,530	930	14.4	6,250	5,320	930	14.9
Kittitas	10,470	8,600	1,870	17.9	10,340	8,470	1,870	18.1	10,130	8,270	1,860	18.4
Klickitat	7,190	5,150	2,040	28.4	6,960	4,930	2,030	29.2	7,090	5,000	2,090	29.5
Lewis	24,590	20,200	4,390	17.9	24,500	19,790	4,710	19.2	23,890	19,320	4,570	19.1
Lincoln	3,620	3,500	320	8.4	3,570	3,230	290	8.1	3,820	3,460	360	9.4
Mason	10,780	9,080	1,700	15.8	10,740	8,980	1,780	16.6	10,330	8,790	1,590	15.3
Okanogan	15,270	11,920	3,350	21.9	15,350	11,590	3,760	24.5	15,350	10,860	4,490	29.3
Pacific	7,140	5,850	1,290	18.1	7,340	5,750	1,590	21.7	7,390	6,100	1,290	17.5
Pend Oreille	3,220	2,150	1,070	33.2	3,190	2,160	1,030	32.3	3,240	2,260	980	30.2
San Juan	3,100	2,700	400	12.9	3,090	2,650	440	14.2	3,070	2,670	400	13.0
Skagit	31,770	25,530	6,240	19.6	31,610	25,100	6,510	20.6	31,090	25,190	5,900	19.0
Skamania	3,170	2,240	930	29.3	3,090	2,070	1,020	33.0	3,030	2,010	1,020	33.7
Stevens	11,730	8,960	2,770	23.6	11,320	8,930	2,390	24.5	11,880	9,130	2,700	22.7
Wahkiakum	1,330	1,190	140	10.5	1,270	1,120	150	11.8	1,290	1,180	110	8.5
Walla Walla	24,750	21,480	3,270	13.2	24,610	21,460	3,150	12.8	24,450	21,400	3,050	12.5
Whitman	15,170	14,400	770	5.1	14,810	14,020	790	5.3	15,060	14,340	720	4.8

1/ Detail may not add due to rounding.
2/ The Tri-Cities area includes all of Benton and Franklin counties. The Wenatchee Labor Area includes all of Chelan and Douglas counties.
3/ Estimates provided here are for use as an economic time-series. Official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates, which must be used for Federal program purposes, are available upon request.

Research and Analysis Branch

WASHINGTON STATE LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT
ESTIMATES FOR FEDERAL PROGRAM PURPOSES 1/

March 29, 1983
Benchmark 1982

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	February 1983 Preliminary				January 1983 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unemploy-ment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unemploy-ment	Unemp. Rate
Washington State Total	2,039,000	1,778,100	260,900	12.8	2,039,100	1,768,900	270,200	13.3
Bellingham SMSA	50,400	43,000	7,400	14.7	50,700	42,800	7,900	15.6
Bremerton SMSA	64,500	59,000	5,500	8.5	64,300	58,800	5,500	8.6
Olympia SMSA	57,000	49,800	7,200	12.6	56,800	49,300	7,500	13.2
Seattle-Everett SMSA	898,500	803,300	95,200	10.6	901,200	804,700	96,500	10.7
King County	705,700	634,800	70,900	10.0	706,500	635,900	70,600	10.0
Spokane SMSA	153,700	134,300	19,400	12.6	154,200	134,200	20,000	13.0
Tacoma SMSA	191,700	165,600	26,100	13.6	190,400	164,400	26,000	13.7
Tri-Cities Area 2/	79,300	67,300	12,000	15.1	78,600	66,100	12,500	15.9
Yakima SMSA	84,300	68,100	16,200	19.2	82,500	65,600	16,900	20.5
Wenatchee Labor Area 3/	36,510	29,860	6,650	18.2	37,300	29,130	8,170	21.9
Adams	7,010	6,040	970	13.8	6,590	5,620	970	14.7
Asotin	8,260	7,130	1,130	13.7	8,170	7,040	1,130	13.8
Clallam	19,520	16,000	3,520	18.0	19,940	15,800	4,140	20.8
Clark	95,230	84,270	10,960	11.5	96,500	84,640	11,860	12.3
Columbia	2,390	1,810	580	24.3	2,200	1,640	560	25.5
Cowlitz	34,140	28,170	5,970	17.5	34,000	27,790	6,210	18.3
Ferry	2,320	1,820	500	21.6	2,280	1,780	500	21.9
Garfield	1,080	960	120	11.1	1,010	900	110	10.9
Grant	23,390	19,460	3,930	16.8	22,230	18,290	3,940	17.7
Grays Harbor	32,470	27,300	5,170	15.9	33,220	27,530	5,690	17.1
Island	14,630	13,170	1,460	10.0	14,530	13,080	1,450	10.0
Jefferson	6,630	5,760	870	13.1	6,610	5,680	930	14.1
Kittitas	10,620	8,770	1,850	17.4	10,550	8,690	1,860	17.6
Klickitat	7,260	5,250	2,010	27.7	7,070	5,060	2,010	28.4
Lewis	24,940	20,610	4,330	17.4	25,000	20,320	4,680	18.7
Lincoln	3,880	3,570	310	8.0	3,650	3,370	280	7.7
Mason	10,940	9,260	1,680	15.4	10,970	9,200	1,770	16.1
Okanogan	15,460	12,160	3,300	21.3	15,630	11,900	3,730	23.9
Pacific	7,240	5,970	1,270	17.5	7,480	5,900	1,580	21.1
Pend Oreille	3,250	2,190	1,060	32.6	3,240	2,220	1,020	31.5
San Juan	3,150	2,760	390	12.4	3,150	2,720	430	13.7
Skagit	32,190	26,040	6,150	19.1	32,220	25,760	6,460	20.0
Skamania	3,200	2,290	910	28.4	3,140	2,130	1,010	32.2
Stevens	11,870	9,140	2,730	23.0	12,040	9,170	2,870	23.8
Wahkiakum	1,350	1,210	140	10.4	1,300	1,150	150	11.5
Walla Walla	25,130	21,910	3,220	12.8	25,160	22,030	3,130	12.4
Whitman	15,440	14,690	750	4.9	15,170	14,390	780	5.1

1/ Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data. Data are not comparable with estimates made in previous years.

2/ Includes Benton and Franklin counties.

3/ Includes Chelan and Douglas counties.

ESTIMATED AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING AND OF NONSUPERVISORY WORKERS IN NONMANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES, STATE OF WASHINGTON

	Jan. 1983 Prod. or Nonsup. Workers	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
		Jan. 1983	Dec. 1982	Jan. 1982	Jan. 1983	Dec. 1982	Jan. 1982	Jan. 1983	Dec. 1982	Jan. 1982
TOTAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	173,000	443.52	447.37	423.38	38.5	38.6	38.7	11.52	11.59	10.94
Lumber & wood products	35,700	429.73	403.64	397.85	37.4	35.5	36.5	11.49	11.37	10.90
Primary metal industries	9,300	542.64	538.07	488.84	40.8	41.2	40.3	13.30	13.06	12.13
Fabricated metal products	6,600	491.60	501.43	445.05	40.0	41.0	38.3	12.29	12.23	11.62
Machinery 1/	15,100	353.02	390.62	379.14	38.0	39.9	39.7	9.29	9.79	9.55
Transportation equipment	40,800	538.94	563.99	522.49	40.1	41.5	41.5	13.44	13.59	12.59
Food & kindred products	20,100	351.07	347.33	339.11	36.8	36.6	36.7	9.54	9.49	9.24
Chemicals & allied products	4,500	493.38	485.48	450.38	41.6	40.9	40.9	11.86	11.87	11.01
SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Construction	51,000	662.82	647.17	624.46	36.2	35.5	35.4	18.31	18.23	17.64
Wholesale and retail trade	235,500	310.54	316.48	289.97	34.2	35.6	33.6	9.08	8.89	8.63

1/ Data prior to January 1983 is no longer comparable due to a break in the series.